



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Induction of Stephanie M. Sickler into the IDEC Council of Fellows

CHICAGO, IL (February 1, 2026)—Stephanie M. Sickler, Associate Professor at Florida State University, has been inducted into the Council of Fellows of the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEc). Sickler's sustained leadership, unwavering dedication, and transformative impact on IDEc and the broader interior design profession exemplify the highest standards of excellence that this honor recognizes.

Throughout her distinguished career, Sickler has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to advancing IDEc's mission through continuous, meaningful, and visionary service. Her leadership within the organization spans more than a decade and reflects a rare combination of clarity, compassion, and strategic insight. She has served in nearly every major leadership role, including President (2023-2024), each marked by her steady guidance, collaborative approach, and unshakable responsibility to the IDEc community.

As President, Sickler led IDEc through a critical period of transition, guiding the organization through a shift to a new management company, safeguarding operational stability, and ensuring the success of the Annual Conference. Her leadership during this time was not only stabilizing but visionary, strengthening IDEc's foundation for the years ahead. In her role as Immediate Past President (2024-2025), she continued to provide strategic oversight, invaluable mentorship, and continuity that ensures IDEc's ongoing growth. Sickler's impact is not only organizational but also structural. She has raised over \$100,000 in sponsorship support for IDEc, an extraordinary accomplishment.

Throughout her 14 years of IDEc involvement, Sickler has brought purpose, energy, and excellence to every role. Her first IDEc commitment as the South Region Graduate Student Scholarship Coordinator (2011–2013) illustrates her understanding of the importance of all IDEc voices. As Director of Service (2018–2022), Service Collaborative Coordinator (2015–2018), and as Chair of the RFP Task Force (2023), she has demonstrated her dedication to fostering member engagement, elevating IDEc's visibility, and building a culture of service that empowered educators at all career stages. Sickler is also a recipient of two IDEc Presidential Awards (2018, 2020).

Beyond IDEc, Sickler is a nationally respected leader in interior design education. She has enriched the profession through scholarship, presentations, publications, and active engagement with allied organizations, including CIDA, CIDQ, NCBDS, and EDRA. Her commitment to mentoring emerging educators and shaping future practitioners underscores



her belief in the transformative power of design education. Sickler has brought her insights and practices from the classroom to industry trade shows (HCD, EFA, and EDSpaces) focusing on materials knowledge application gaps in our profession. Her monthly co-authored column in *Delve*, titled “The Professor is In: Materials Education for *Delve* Magazine” brings awareness to issues facing both design and materials education. Her work consistently reinforces the critical link between rigorous academic preparation and impactful professional practice.

Sickler embodies the qualities of an IDEC Fellow: she is a visionary leader, a dedicated and generous colleague, and a steadfast advocate for the continued evolution of interior design education. Her work has shaped IDEC’s present and will undoubtedly influence the future trajectory of our profession.

About IDEC

The Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) is a community of educators, researchers, and students of interior design committed to scholarship that shapes the future of the industry. IDEC’s mission is to enhance interior design by assisting educators with effective teaching resources and promoting research. For more information, visit www.idec.org.

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